

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows.

Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following:

-- Fig. 3 is a flowchart illustrating an example of steps performed by a satellite terminal 130 in gaining bandwidth assignment and sending billing information to the NOCC 120. Before a user gains access to the system, the NOCC 120 must authorize the satellite terminal 130 to access the network 250, as shown in step 1000. The satellite terminal 130 then requests a bandwidth assignment in step 1010. Next, the satellite's payload control computer 210 grants the bandwidth assignment to the satellite terminal 130, as shown in step 1020. In step 1030, the payload control computer 210 maintains a record, for audit purposes, of the bandwidth assignment. --